MONTEREY NEWS

MAY 1987

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE WARRANT FOR TOWN MEETING, 1987

This description of the issues to be voted on at this year's Town Meeting will generally follow the order in which they will be presented on the warrant. It would be a good idea for you to bring your copy of the *News* along to the Town Meeting, Saturday, May 2, 10:00 a.m. at the Monterey Firehouse.

There will be an opportunity for residents to discuss the issues prior to Town Meeting on April 30 when the Selectmen and the Finance Committee are holding an informational meeting. Federal Revenue Sharing will be discussed at 7:15, the rest of the warrant at 7:30 p.m. Location to be announced.

The various accounts in Monterey's budget are traditionally reviewed and approved before the Special Articles. The accounts are grouped under headings (for example: "General Government," "Education," "Health, Sanitation and Recreation," etc.). The items under each heading are voted on as a group, but, as the recommended amounts are read by the moderator, if you have a question about any one budget item, raise your hand and ask for a "hold" after that item is read. At the end of the reading of each section, items on "hold" will be discussed.

The Budget

The first heading on the warrant is **Town Officer Salaries**. You'll notice most salaries remain about the same except for raises—none exceeding $500/year—for the Tax Collector, Town Clerk and Town Treasurer. Other salary considerations are noted in a special article regarding highway employees. There, a range is recommended in which the Selectmen should stay when fixing salaries for these employees of the Town. The final decisions are made outside of Town Meeting on these particular salaries. This gives the Selectmen flexibility and bargaining power when hiring laborers.

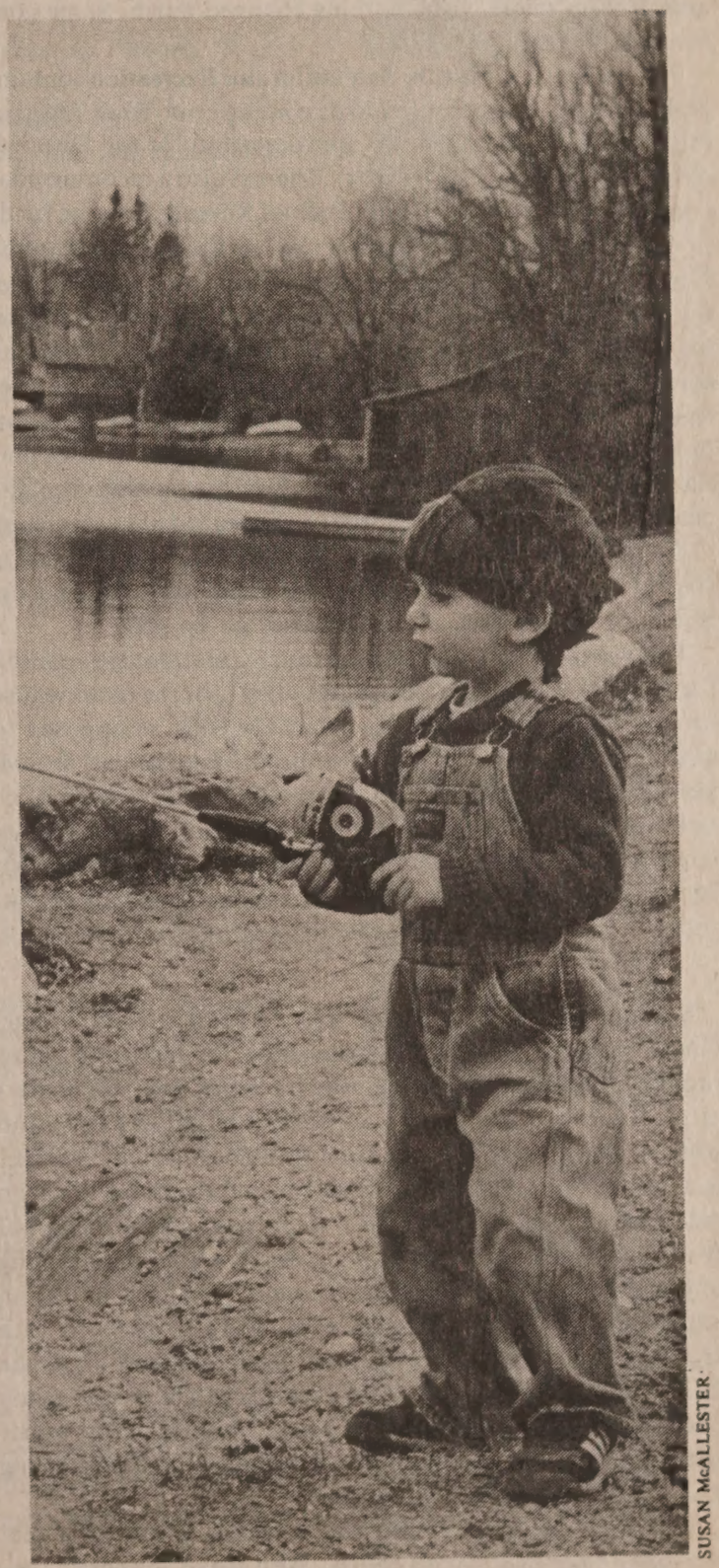
Next category: **General Government — Other**.

The position of Assessor's Appraiser has been changed to Assistant Assessor and a new position, Assessor's Clerk, has been created. The new position, plus the extra expenses it will add, bring the total outlay for Assessors' work up to $8,675, compared to $6,825 in Fiscal '86-'87.

Other changes in this category include a $200 raise in Dog Officer expenses; almost double the amount proposed last year for the Planning Board; and a $600 raise for Town Office Secretary.

Next is **Protection of Persons and Property**.

The Conservation Commission needs $200 more to operate than it did last year. The Police Chief's salary has been made



SUSAN McALLESTER

Alex Wolf begins the season on Lake Garfield.

a separate item, and the total Police budget goes from last year's $14,225 to $15,675.

Veterans' benefits went up from $500 to $1,500 because an individual applied to that fund for aid for the coming year.

Under **Education**, Library appropriation is up over $2,000, and our School costs are up, as always, but Cynthia Weber reports that Monterey came out better than some other neighboring towns because our town's equalized valuation (or total worth), on which some of the school assessment depends, didn't go up much this year.

Under **Unclassified**, a hodgepodge of accounts from Insurance to Stationery costs, nothing changed much. Same goes for **Cemeteries**.

The category of **Health, Sanitation and Recreation** contains perhaps the most interesting issue coming up at Town Meeting this year. There is a $50,000 appropriation for the Disposal Area (up from $26,400 last year). There is also a recommendation that $25,000 be taken from Federal Revenue Sharing funds to add to this amount. As you read in the April *Monterey News*, the realities of garbage disposal costs are washing over the town. It is expected that the new arrangements for disposing of town wastes will cost about $75,000 a year. There are several special articles later in the warrant proposing user fees to offset a part of these costs and suggesting ways of regulating disposal as well as fee rates. Each of these articles plus the Sanitation budget item will provide opportunities to discuss this cost increase, plus future possibilities for recycling.

Otherwise under H, S & R, the Park Commission, a skating rink in mind, asks for $1,500 more than last year, and the Board of Health Inspector's expenses go up $500.

Highways. Next to Education (our largest single expense), the Highway account is the largest. This year the focus will be on maintenance ($85,000, up from $54,000), as opposed to capital expenditures such as have been made the past several years on rebuilding roads. The present work will involve repairs, potholes, painting stripes, etc. Note the Snow and Sand Account, cut down $20,000 during last year's belt tightening, remains the same as last year. As always, the Town will receive money from the state for capital expenditures.

Several special articles will refer to road considerations. One of these is a $9,000 appropriation for replacing guard rails (the same amount which was rescinded last year as part of the solution to the Town's large override, minus a thousand which is proposed to be taken from Revenue Sharing). Another is a $6,000 appropriation for painting yellow center lines on side roads in town. Monterey is expecting a $150,000 grant from the state which will provide assistance in maintaining any numbered roads. There is a request for $1,000 to pay an engineering consultant to advise on ways to proceed with repairs of two town bridges over the Konkapot, one on Route 23 and one on Curtis Road. These repairs will be costly, partly due to their nature (replace deck, repair concrete decay, repair wing walls) and partly due to EPA laws regulating sandblasting and painting over bodies of water.

One last special article relating to roads is a request that the Town take over a road called "West Road" opposite Leeside Lodge on Route 57. The road is a private one, built before subdivision laws gave standard specifications, and has required considerable maintenance over the years. Residents formerly hired Monterey's Town grader for two or three hours a year to grade the road after winter. Now the Town has adopted a policy of not using any of its equipment on private roads. The expense of private operators is too high, and residents want the Town to own and maintain West Road.

Special Articles

All that remain are the special articles not previously mentioned in connection with budget items. The organization called Construct in Great Barrington, which helps provide low-cost housing for Southern Berkshire residents, is asking for $750, feeling that it serves the county in the same way as groups such as Berkshire Mental Health, Children's Health Program and Visiting Nurse. If approved, Construct's appropriation will join these groups as a line item in subsequent years. Another group, called Hospice, offering care for the dying, is requesting $200.

The article requesting the creation of the position of Accountant in the Town is discussed at length in the April *News*. Proposed salary will be $7,000.

On the water front, $1,000 is requested for dredging of the Konkapot River behind the Monterey Store. The Fire Company often pumps its water supply from that site, and it is so silted up from spring floods that the water is too shallow now.

There is $3,000 requested for maintenance of the Brewer Dam Spillway, an activity mandated by the state which will include mowing, brush removal and the like. Another $3,000 is requested for office furniture (chairs, cabinets, etc.).

The Fire Department has purchased a fire engine, used for some years in the city of Watertown, CT, which will carry water, rescue and emergency equipment plus the Jaws of Life. It is recommended that the Town purchase this vehicle for $10,000 ($5,000 to be taken from Revenue Sharing).

As you drift off to sleep, I'll mention that the Stabilization Fund, which got nothing last year, wants its usual $17,500 this year. The Conservation Commission Fund has humbled itself from $500 to $250. There is a request for approval to sell some Town office furniture, the police boat, and the land and buildings belonging to the old firehouse.

There are three articles, slightly modified from last year's warrant, regarding notification of meetings and public comment on overrides.

There are two rather interesting and contradictory articles proposing ways to avoid conflicts of interest in circumstances where real estate dealers serve on Town boards regulating town properties.

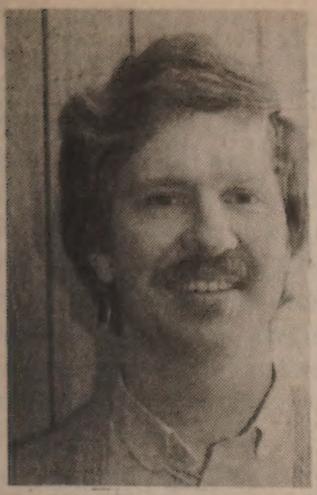
In summation, this year's budget, promising to be around $900,000, has crept closer to the one million mark by about $100,000.

— Ellen Pearson

I AM INVISIBLE

I am invisible
Because you think that you know me

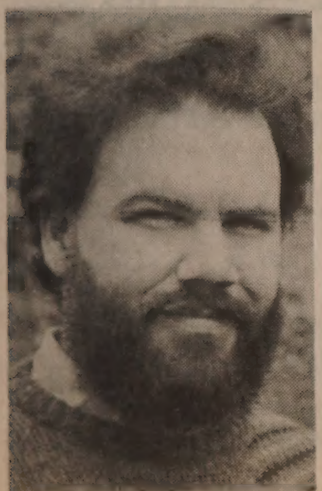
— Tom Golden



Virgil Stucker D, R

Linda E. Thorpe D, R

Deborah Mielke R



John M. Higgins D, R

BALLOT FOR TOWN ELECTION — MAY 2, 1987

MODERATOR: **Mark J. J. Makuc**, R-D; candidate for re-election.

SELECTMAN: **Rick Mielke**, R-D.

BOARD OF APPEALS: **Georgiana C. O'Connell**, R-D; candidate for re-election.

BOARD OF ASSESSORS: **Peter S. Vallianos**, R-D; candidate for re-election.

AUDITOR: **Hans Kessler**, R-D.

CEMETERY COMMITTEE: **Florence G. Brown**, R-D; candidate for re-election.

FINANCE COMMITTEE: **Virgil Stucker**, R-D.

LIBRARY TRUSTEE (Vote for two; one-year unexpired term): **Eileen M. Clawson**, R-D.
John M. Higgins, R-D.

LIBRARY TRUSTEE (Vote for two; three-year term):
Deborah Mielke, R.
Carol L. Sadlowski, D.
Linda Thorpe, R-D.

PARK COMMISSION: **Raymond Thomas Rosenthal**, R-D.

PLANNING BOARD: **Arthur C. Hastedt**, R-D; candidate for re-election.

SOUTHERN BERKSHIRE REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT COMMITTEE: **Cory B. Loder**, R-D; candidate for re-election.

TOWN CLERK (One-year unexpired term): **Barbara B. Swann**, R-D.

TREE WARDEN: **Roger C. Tryon**, R-D; candidate for re-election.

TOWN REPUBLICAN COMMITTEE

The Republican Caucus is pleased to announce its slate of candidates. [Ed. Note: See slates of both parties on this page.]

New candidates are:

Rick Mielke for Selectman. He has shown his interest, hard work and dedication to the Town's welfare in his terms on the Roads and Machinery and Salary Committees.

Linda Thorpe for Library Trustees. Linda is already an active supporter of our library, a Kindergarten assistant and a veteran EMT with the Fire Company.

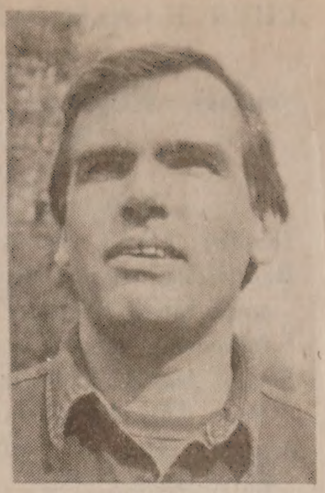
Barbara Swann for Town Clerk. Barbara comes well qualified and enthusiastic, with a background of political anthropology and an active interest in organizing all the old records.

Virgil Stucker for Finance Committee. He brings extensive experience in financial management from many years' experience at Gould Farm.

Hans Kessler for Auditor. Hans has accepted this nomination after having just stepped down from the Selectman's seat.

Tom Rosenthal for Park Commission. Tom, often seen with camera, is a photographer. His two small children and enthusiasm for sports account for his interest in this seat.

— Fran Amidon



Rick Mielke D, R

Georgiana O'Connell D, R

Barbara B. Swann D, R

Carol L. Sadlowski D

CHURCH CALENDAR

Sundays: 9:15-10:15 Spiritual Renewal Discussion. Open to all. Subjects discussed come from those who attend.
10:30-11:30 Morning Worship

Tuesday, May 5 Monthly Prayer Breakfast, 7:00 a.m.

Wednesday, May 6 Agape Meal, 6:30-8:00. Everybody brings some bread or cheese or fruit or juice/wine for a time of fellowship, singing and exchange of ideas.

Friday, May 8 8:30 a.m. Deacons' Meeting at the parsonage. Note: This is a morning meeting.

Monday, May 11 7:30 p.m. Parish Council meets at the parsonage.

Every Thursday morning from 8-8:30 a.m. at the Church: Meditation led by David Bach. All are welcome.

CHURCH NEWS

Sunday, May 24—3:30 p.m. Chamber Concert. Brahms' *Sonata in E minor for Cello and Piano* and Brahms' *Sonata in D minor for Violin and Piano.* The cellist is Anna Bourdon, who performed the sonata at the Conservatory of the Hague, Netherlands. Dedicated to raising happy and healthy children and to providing basic, nutritious food for her family and others (consonant with husband Richard's bakery), Ms. Bourdon nevertheless finds time to prepare this soul-satisfying sonata by Brahms. Dan Fenstermacher, who plays with the first violins in the Boston Philharmonic, performed the D minor with Robert Palin in Charlottesville, Virginia, in 1981. This past summer Dan earned his Ph. D. in plasma physics at Cornell and is currently a research fellow at the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard. Dan is finally doing something that he has dreamed of for years: putting his physics background to use in an effort to slow or even reverse the arms race. The main focus of his research at Harvard is aimed at the goal of a comprehensive test ban treaty. He is also working independently with two outside groups, one of which promotes community education on the arms race through public speaking, and the other is studying alternative (non-nuclear, non-provocative) defense options. Pianist Robert Palin seeks to translate spiritual truths of the Christian faith—love, right relationships, joy—into attitudes and behaviors that make the presence of God real and visible. Music to him is a metaphor of God's entry and participation in the Creation.

Following the performance, those who attend will also be treated to light refreshment. Although no charge is planned, whatever free-will offering people donate will go to support the program and ministry of the Monterey United Church of Christ.

Monday, May 25—MEMORIAL DAY PARADE: Watch for baked goods and refreshments for sale! The sale is among a number of activities planned to raise money for the Church. Anyone who would like to help with this project is asked to contact Milly Walsh (528-4257) or Judy Hayes (528-1874).

Sunday, May 31—Our sister church in Stockbridge (First Congregational) invites us to a presentation and discussion from 2 to 4 p.m. on Building Bridges to South Africa, with Stephen DeGruchy, South African theologian and pastor. Rev. DeGruchy will provide information on our sister church in South Africa which our church has agreed to assist. Other UCC churches in South County will join us in Stockbridge for this presentation.

Sunday, June 7—PENTECOST SUNDAY. An all-church JUST PEACE OFFERING will be received. In the areas of the world where non-peace, violence and conflict are most visible, poverty, oppression and lack of education are found to be the underlying causes. True peace can be based only on justice for all. This offering is aimed at funding projects that will remove the causes of non-peace. Twenty-five percent of the money will be used locally, 25% in the state conference, and 50% for national instrumentalities. Monterey UCC has recently been working with a community committee concerned with affordable local housing. Representatives of the missions committee are in contact with a South County committee (UCC) eager to resettle a refugee. Both of these projects are examples of extending justice.

In recent weeks the words "evangelists" and "evangelism" have been abused, I think. The Bible Speaks, PTL, Oral Roberts and others do not have a patent on evangelism: it is a good word for good news. A socially conscious magazine with a Christian perspective is *Sojourners.* "Sojourners" is also a community in Washington, D. C., which provides a voice for change and a meeting place for people from diverse backgrounds who are turning their lives toward the Biblical vision of justice and peace. *Sojourners* has a message that deserves to be heard. For more information write to Subscriptions Manager, *Sojourners*, Box 29272, Washington, D. C. 20017.

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VOX ED. The Sounds of Monterey

A month ago I was treated to the sounds of a consort of coyotes singing in the moonlight across the road from our house. The clamor of Canada geese is frequent, now, and the phoebe is heard in the land; spring peepers are shrilly assertive in the marshy places. These are sounds to gladden the heart.

There are others: the bell that chimes as our Town voting box keeps count of the ballots deposited on Town Meeting day; the wail of the ambulance on its errand of mercy; the siren of the Town cruiser pulling in a traffic violator; the clattering cantata of the road scraper putting things to rights on our dirt roads after a rough winter. These are among the municipal sounds assuring us that Monterey is well run and that we do it ourselves with our own votes and taxes.

Then there is the steady pulse of traffic, moving up in volume as summer approaches. It is easy to regret this as a kind of trespass on our wilderness symphony, but a friend once offered me a comforting metaphor: "It's the sound of the great river of life, going by," he said. I have been grateful for that ever since. The rush of a car along Route 23 is, in fact, much like the sound of our brook in spate, full of the implications of motion, ceaseless energy flow, and destinations in faraway places. And when we remember the importance of the automobile to the American psyche, how the appearance of a car and the way it is driven reveal the personality and circumstances of its owner, then we can wonder at each one, the way we do at an otter or a trout, slipping downstream on a bright spring day.

— David P. McAllester

FENTON LEAVING FOR NICARAGUA

Jerry Floyd Fenton, of Beartown Mountain Road, Monterey, is leaving May 1 for three years of volunteer service in Nicaragua. Fenton will help the poor build improved houses with Habitat for Humanity, a worldwide ecumenical Christian housing ministry.

Fenton, who holds an M. Div. from Union Theological Seminary in New York City and a J. D. from Harvard, has practiced law for the last several years in Monterey. He has lived for short periods in both Puerto Rico and Mexico and for six years in the 1970s worked as an attorney for the Panama Canal, living on the Isthmus of Panama.

In a news release, Fenton says: "Why does a Harvard-educated lawyer leave the comfort of life in the Berkshire Hills of Massachusetts to help build houses in Nicaragua? [Because] I believe the real enemy confronting the people of Central America is neither the U. S. nor the Soviet Union, but poverty and economic injustice."

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PERSONAL NOTES

Welcome back to **Michael Marcus** of Art School Road, who enjoyed a long winter respite, traveling first to Melbourne, Australia, where he attended his brother's wedding, then on to the Fiji Islands, etc. The wedding was the inspiration (or excuse) to go, and the rest of the trip was—hey, why not? Michael is now getting ready to fire up the kiln at Joyous Spring Pottery.

Welcome back also to **Mark** and **Tracey Mendel** of Tyringham Road, who, along with children **Julian** and **Bridget**, enjoyed a trip to Florida to visit Tracey's family.

And, also, welcome back to **Ed Brousseau** of Beartown Road, who traveled to Texas and most enjoyed seeing his granddaughters and three great-grandchildren.

Michael and **Sharon Feltser** spent a week in the Wild West. Michael had a business meeting in Reno and convinced Sharon to brave the mountains. They were most impressed with Squaw Valley, traveling by tram into the heart of the mountain. Sharon reports they were in the minority, as they did not ski, but it was brave of her nonetheless.

Tammy Jervas of Swann Road enjoyed a trip to California with her former college roommate and reports skiing at Heavenly Valley was just Heavenly. Did you really say that, Tam? Well, glad they had a super trip.

Bob and **Barbara Gauthier** spent a long weekend in the Boston area recently and enjoyed a surprise birthday party for two given by their four children.

So what became of **Natasha Grotz**? Many people have been asking me that question, so one final note to wrap up the ski season. Natasha was named to the All-Berkshire first team, the Number 1 girl, having earned 199 of a possible 200 points. She was the second freshman in history to be named #1! Natasha was also named to the All-Western Mass first team and was one of ten girls in the state selected for the All-Massachusetts team. This state team competed at Loon Mountain, New Hampshire, against the best from nine other Northeast teams, and the Massachusetts team won, for the first time ever, the Eastern Alpine Championship. Of 100 top girl skiers from throughout the Northeast, Natasha placed 12th in slalom and 19th in giant slalom, definitely a fine performance for her team and for herself. I thought it was a great way to end the season, but Natasha says, "There is no good way to end the season." Oh, well—on to softball—varsity shortstop—let's switch gears!

Enjoyed **Orville Snapp**'s play, *The Haunted High School*, performed at Mt. Everett Regional recently. Fine performances, of course, were given by Monterey cast members **Shelby Loder, Kip Makuc**, and **Michelle Grotz** (even though Michelle lost her voice halfway through the second performance). Oh, well—a memorable evening, and all went well. Hats off to our talented Monterey students!

Happy Birthday wishes to **Bob Gauthier** on March 10, to **Barbara Gauthier** on March 31, to **Maynard Forbes** and **Wendy Tryon** on April 2, to **Shawn Tryon** on April 12, to **Eoin Higgins** on May 8 and **Deirdre Higgins** on May 22. And a Very Happy Anniversary wish to **Maynard** and **Gale Forbes** on April 5!

— Stephanie Grotz

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MONTEREY WASTELINES

An outline for a new Monterey solid waste program is beginning to emerge.

We've discussed problems (too much garbage! skyrocketing landfill charges in the netherlands to which our garbage goes!) and possibilities (weigh it, recycle it, take less of it, shove it!) in numerous Solid Waste Committee meetings. The Selectmen have wrinkled brows about it during several regular meetings — one week someone appeared with a routine building permit application and received, *gratis*, an hour of further discussion on the matter.

The plan for next year (first of July, 1987, to June 30, 1988) is still tentative, pending your discussion and action at the May 2 Annual Town Meeting, but Selectmen have endorsed procedures which they feel combine the best of fairness to Monterey residents and economy to the Town.

Residents will be required to pay directly for use of Monterey solid waste facilities ("the dump"). The target for the charge, however, is only one-quarter to one-third of the total cost of operations. The lion's share of costs will still be paid from general Town revenues.

What will we pay directly? Charges will start from the most common unit of solid waste production — the standard living unit with kitchen. There are about 720 housing units in Monterey. Let's not go through all the arithmetic again here, but if we charge $35.00 per house (ah, Monopoly! how much per hotel?) for a whole darn year of dumping all of our plastic baggies, wrappings and chicken bones, we come out to about a quarter of the total cost to the Town.

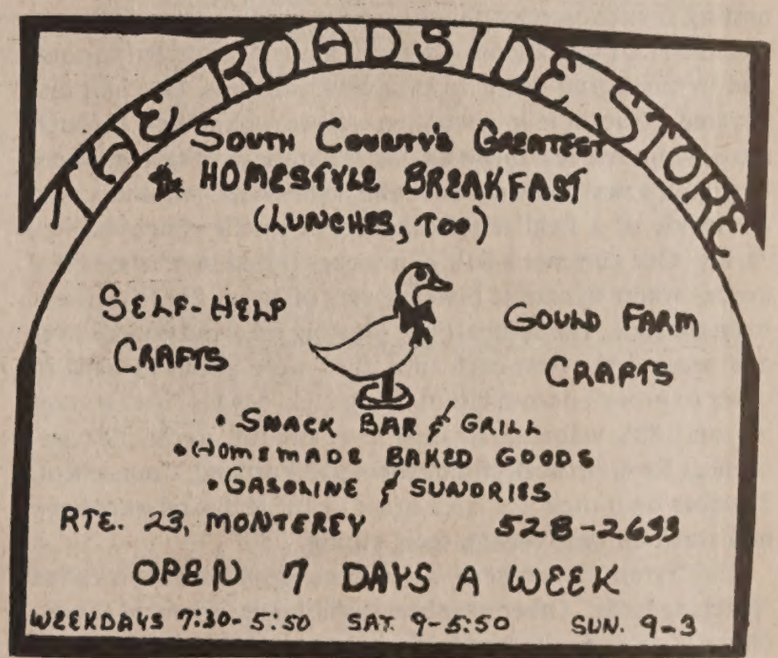
It gets complicated, but the Selectmen are pretty smart, and they listened to waste haulers Leamon Roger and Joe Mallory, who told them about measuring garbage trucks and all. Mallory has studied garbage volume per household and finds an average of 64.5 pounds per week. Easy on the math here, but all the figures they got from these hauler gentlemen told the Selectmen that they should have a charge somewhere around $6.00 per compacted yard for the haulers. If a hauler picks up your waste, you will pay that $6.00 per yard in your regular bill to the hauler. That will be very similar to the $35.00 per year which you would pay if you bought a sticker and went to the "dump" yourself.

So much for the houses — but, as in Monopoly, what about the "hotels" — and stores, farms and non-profit (i.e., non-property-tax-paying) entities in town? Well, we're still trying to arrive at that one-quarter of the cost being paid by the actual user, aren't we? No one is getting cold feet about that? Yes, but go on. Okay, so we arrive at things like this: If we have an apartment, or summer camp, or Gould Farm, and so on — then we take the number of "family" units (units with a kitchen, let's say), and multiply by our $35.00, and the number of dormitory-style units (a one-person unit without kitchen) multiplied by a proposed $10.00 per year, and we arrive at the putative fair amount. Remember, landlords could haul all the garbage from their joint or they may pass that responsibility on to the renter. That's just like the light bill. No problem.

The Selectmen had to add several other categories, but they'll try to work out any problems or feelings of unfairness. We need to call on our civic pride here, and try to see where we fit in. If you haul your own waste and have a teeny-weenie business at your place, no problem. You're still a household. If it's a kind of bigger or growing business, you should ante up for the double dip: there will be a $70 category here — that still would include your house, too. If you're a bigger store, restaurant or so (Roadside Store or Monterey General, for example), the charge is a flat $300. But remember, if a hauler picks you up, you don't have to worry about a sticker or category — the charge per yard your hauler pays should come out to a similar charge per year.

This system should be fair for everyone — if you see problems or have more great ideas about garbage, please come to the May 2 Annual Town Meeting. See you there.

— Wayne Burkhart



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PHOEBE!

To the naturalist, or observant country-dweller, every season has its harbinger and every species of animal its own peculiar character. In March when winter is just loosening up, the woods are still light and quiet. Then, suddenly, some morning when your blood is stirred a little by the earlier dawn, you will be luxuriating in bed, lying awake contemplating planting the peas and cleaning up the sap buckets, when the air is split by a "tyrant flycatcher."

This is the pugnacious male phoebe, back a little ahead of the females from a balmy winter in the Southeast or maybe Mexico, picking out a place to raise a family. This sorting out of territories involves a great deal of noise, which only increases as the females arrive two weeks later.

"Fee-*bee*, fee-*bee*, fee-*bee!*" yell the males, often at the amazing rate of 30 times per minute. They perch near potential nest sites, sometimes the same ones they have used every spring for years, often very close to people. This is another reason the phoebes make such an impression. Their inclination to settle near us is flattering, if noisy, and you have to feel some kinship with creatures who share your taste in architecture.

In his *Birds of Massachusetts and other New England States, 1927*, Edward Howe Forbush gives an interesting list of odd nesting sites chosen by phoebes. After reading them I have to conclude that the raucous phoebe is actually attracted to noise and to hustle and bustle or even awkwardness. One pair discovered a knothole in a wooden well-cover and flew through it to a point five feet down against the stone-wall casing, where they built a nest some distance above the water. Another chose the inside of a field telephone box at a rifle range in New Jersey. One summer a pair of phoebes raised two broods in a quarry where dynamite blasting went off every day fifteen feet from the nest. The sympathetic blasting crew put boards over and around the nest each time they were about to blast in order to protect it from bits of flying rock. My favorite account is from 1886, when the steamer ferry still ran across the Connecticut River between Middletown and Portland, Connecticut. Phoebes built their nest on a brace on the ferry and went back and forth all day, raising their young.

The "tyrant flycatchers" are a large family of the so-called "perching birds." Other members of this family, found in Massachusetts, include the kingbirds and crested flycatchers. They perch on a branch and then dart out to snatch flying insects from the air. One observer even saw a phoebe in a late snowstorm grabbing snowflakes in mid-air, presumably because it was thirsty. Although they do eat a few honey bees, phoebes are considered the "farmer's friend" because their diet consists of mosquitoes, codling moths, gypsy moths, curculios and other weevils, cucumber beetles, houseflies, ants, canker worms, ticks, and grasshoppers. The early returnees in March and the first chilly week in April often have to resort to seed-eating until the first insects emerge.

Once the nest-site is chosen and a pair formed, the males quiet down some, only shrieking "fee-*bee*" for that pre-dawn session and then giving it up during the day while they tend to family matters. The nest may be built up against a vertical surface, like a shed wall or a cliff, or else on a horizontal support, on a bridge or building. The first phoebe nests I remember from my childhood were in my great aunt's barn here in Monterey, up high under the roof inside the main part of the barn. There was also a nest on her back porch one year, over a window a few feet from the screen door. Every time we ran out of the kitchen and let the door slam we startled the phoebe off her nest, but she didn't move her site.

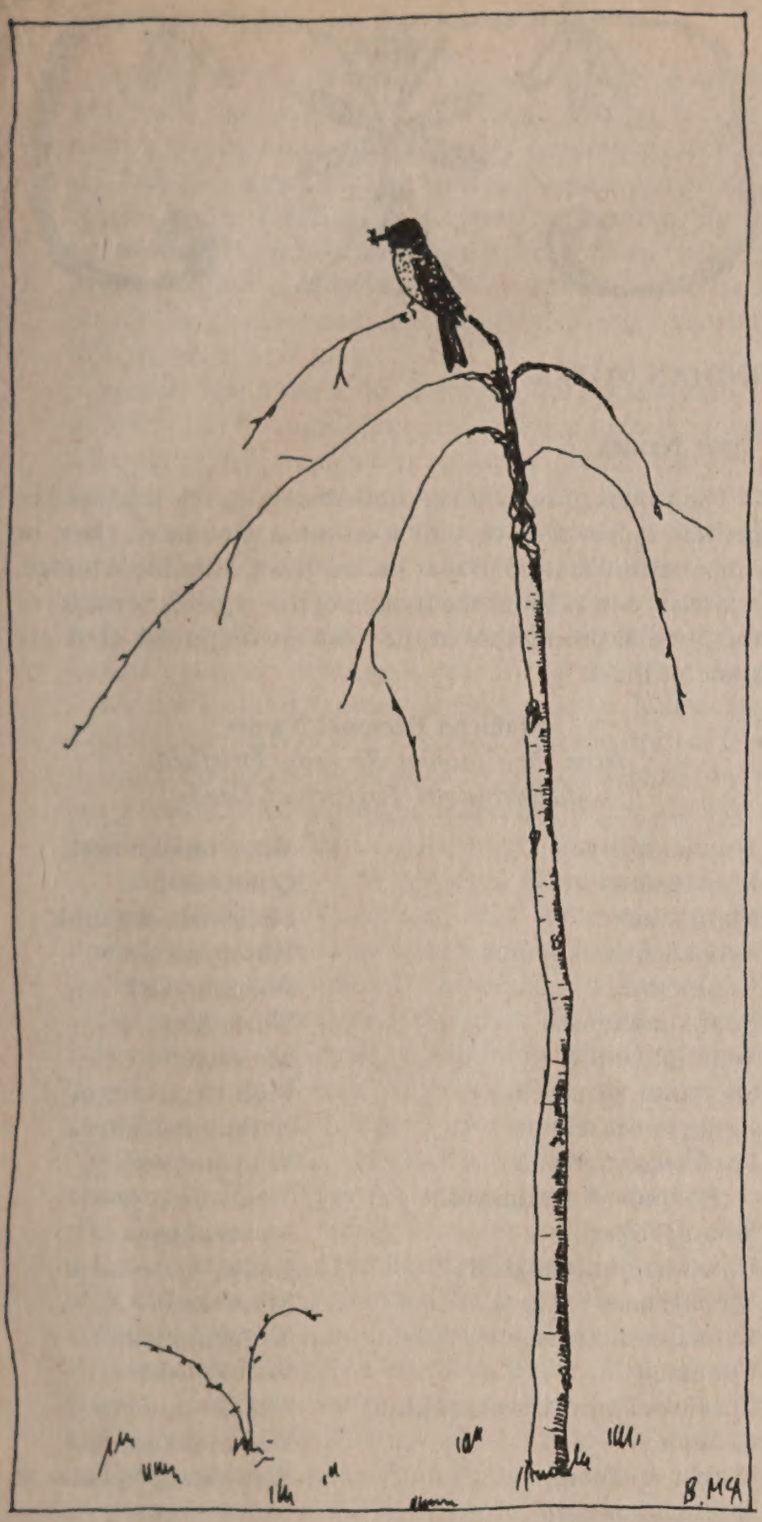
When we were building our own house just across the valley from the old barn, phoebes moved in as soon as we got the subfloor on. Ours is a log house, and we built it from the floor up as you do with Lincoln Logs. Once the cellar walls were up, and joists and plywood laid down, we used the flat cellar floor for a work-space and ran up and down the stairs quite a bit as we built the rest of the house. The phoebes settled just over a center log upright by the stairwell, and as the eggs neared hatching time we used to trip over our dog at the foot of the stairs. She was alert, ears up, listening to the babies peeping in the eggs. She knew before we did when they hatched, and it was her moaning and pacing which prompted us to look in the nest to see the new little phoebes.

The female does all the nest-building and incubating, and the male does all the yelling, but both parents forage to feed the babies. They do this at first by regurgitation but then after a few days bring tough, whole, wriggling insects to the young birds. After two or three weeks the young are ready to leave the nest, and the parents often raise a second brood in the same season. The phoebes arrive early and stay late, until late October, before leaving for their wintering grounds. Here they lead solitary lives, resting and relaxing until they get the mad urge to return to western Massachusetts, wake people up early, and build a nest close to human action.

Henry David Thoreau noted the phoebes' return in his journals. They were much more numerous around Concord in his day than they are now, probably because pesticides have taken their toll. He and many others called the Eastern phoebe a "pewee," although I'm sure he did not confuse it with the wood pewee, which doesn't return to this area until the first week in May.

Besides being noisy, dapper and alert, the phoebe is quite expressive with its crest and tail. The crest is small (Forbush calls the head "sub-crested"), but it is raised and lowered rapidly as moods and messages change. The tail bobs up and down and wags or sweeps back and forth a great deal, which prompted Thoreau to write: "What ails the phoebe's tail? It is loosely hung and pulsating with life." I think the whole bird is pulsating with life and constitutes a kind of catapult or kick in the pants which whips us up for spring, like the crash of cymbals at the end of the drum roll: enter, *Spring!*

— Bonner J. McAllester



SPEED THE WORD

The jonquils in golden slippers
Dance over my neighbor's field,
In long straight lines like chorus girls
They lift their heads to the sun.

In patches and ovals the daffodils skip
Dressed in white, with their golden crowns,
They dazzle and beckon, so lovely to see
As they sway in the breeze together.

Back near a fence grow pink tulips
All tilting their heads toward the sky,
Blowing softly sideways
They seem now to speak:
"Oh, it's Spring—
God be praised—
Speed the word!"

— Sue Moody

SLUMBER SONG

The sandman was late tonight,
And he hurried across the sky;
His cloak bat wings in flight—
I saw them fly.

The shape of his boot was plain,
Beneath the edge of his cloak;
He poured sleep down like rain,
On weary folk.

Softer than spoken word,
He brought night in from the west—
For tired child and bird,
The benison of rest.

— Dorothy E. Law

ODE TO SILENCE

Silence, most beloved song,
whispered words for which I long,
Sing the soul's vernacular,
accompany thoughts that stir.

Words, so many unuttered, spoken.
Hymns from heaven thus are broken.
Divine is thine implicit speech,
yet not above the thinker's reach.

— Tim Keefe

NOCTURNAL CHORUS

Wee peepers' voices loud and shrill,
Undaunted by the night-owl's scream,
Are vying with a whip-poor-will.
A wood-cock's "zeep" beats out the time,
Tree toads inflate their tiny throats
And fireflies dance from dusk 'till light
While bull frogs with their bongo drums
Join in the chorus of the night.

— Eleanor Kimberley

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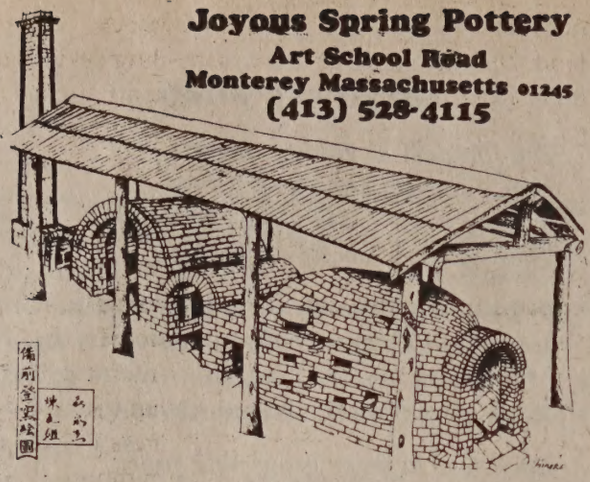

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INDIAN NOTES

Their Names

The names of our Indian predecessors on this land tend to get lost unless they become fixed on a mountain, river, or other natural feature. But at Indian Town, later Stockbridge, established in 1735 for the Indians of this region, the names of the original proprietors of the town are on record. Here are some of them:

Mahican Personal Names
from the Colonial Records, Pittsfield, Massachusetts Registry of Deeds

Mauhammetpeet
Massoqunt
Masinamake
Neekkuchwohkaumun
Konkapot
Pophkunnaupeet
Waumuhhewey
Shonanun (Shawenon)
Kaukeweneckenaut
Pophnehonnuhwoh
(Pohpunnohhanuhwok)
Yokin (Yokun)
Unkamet (Antonkamet)
Umpachenee
Naunauneekawnuek
Unkemug
Cheeksonkhon (Cheeksonkson)
Kahanhoot
Mukhusquantaum
Nukhhinauwegen
Wautennkummeet
Quanaukaunt
Shouwunnohghhuk
Waumpeetkhow
Poopoonnuck
Skheaump
Mossechoos
Muhttuhkummun
Neshoonnuckhuck
Whnaunqueen
Wauwoosauwoh
Mauntauwum
Kaukewenaunnaut
Mhtohkson
Nannauphtaunk
Wauwauwus
Mhtauwaumpey
Whnotohkummun
Wauwaumpequunaunt

— David P. McAllester

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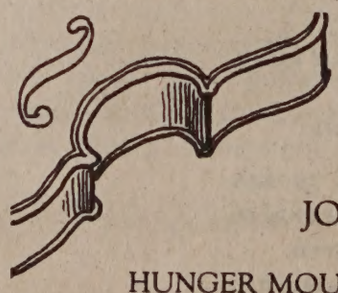

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THE NEW EXPLORATION

Who was Benton MacKaye? He was a farsighted individual who loved the out-of-doors, including camping, hiking, and relating stories around the campfire—enjoying this himself, yes, but even more wishing to share these experiences with others. In the words of Lewis Mumford, Benton "figures in my mind as Thoreau's close continuator: tart as a wild apple, sweet as a hickory nut—though to more Philistine minds he often must have seemed, in Benton's own lingo, 'as wild as a wolf, as crazy as a loon.'"

Benton MacKaye is the Father of the Appalachian Trail, which passes through Monterey, and upon which thousands hike each year, somewhere between Maine and Georgia. Benton himself passed through Monterey; indeed, he stayed here in town, at Gould Farm, on numerous occasions, from the 1920s to the 1950s. His sister Hazel MacKaye, a skilled pianist, singer, and playwright, was a guest at Gould Farm early on, and Benton continued to visit, even after the departure of his sister, because of dear friends he made there.

The home of this Yankee was Shirley Center, Massachusetts, a rural community of character, some distance west of Boston. It would be interesting enough to discuss Benton MacKaye just because of his ingenious conception of the Appalachian Trail. Yet his significance goes deeper than this.

The first meeting of the Regional Planning Association of America took place in April of 1923. There were never more than twenty active members, there was no nonselective mailing list, no heavy endowments—a humble, but purposeful and active, group, with a sense of direction. The words of Benton—a member himself—explain the purpose: "Will the framework which the genius of man has woven become a terrestrial lacework for the integration of his own terrestrial powers, or will it become a tangled net in which he will be strangled?.... The community of definite social structure, developing within certain geographic confines around a common civic purpose, is being replaced by a standardized massing of humanity void of social structure, unbound by geographic confines, and uninspired by any common interest .... But whether spring be late or early, we find ourselves in the shoes of our forefathers. They were confronted by a wilderness of nature; we are invested by a wilderness of civilization." These quotes

These quotes are taken from Benton MacKaye's book, *The New Exploration—A Philosophy of Regional Planning* first published in 1928, an outgrowth of the R. P. A. This work does not ignore the city by any means, with a chapter entitled "Regional City vs. Metropolis" and another following, "Controlling the Metropolitan Invasion." Yet this man advocated public protection of wilderness areas, too, as places where the lonely soul can commune with himself or herself and dream. There was also a place for crowds and shared activities in regional planning.

MacKaye had, in 1930, proposed a road around Boston, not a mere highway like the present Route 128, but a wide recreation belt, with usable green park, footpaths and bicycle paths. Today we could wish the plan had not been rejected in favor of a single purpose highway! This "New Exploration" can still lend *perspective* to those concerned about the habitability of their town and region, or even the planet as a whole; it is far from outmoded. Keeping Monterey rural is important not just for Monterey, but because we need cities *and* the hinterland, the farmland, as well. Sprawling development may not merely pollute streams and eat up farms, but it can also lead to social disintegration. In many areas of the country, this has happened, and the efforts needed to rebuild will be much greater now.

Lewis Mumford writes a colorful introduction to the paperback edition of *The New Exploration*, one that brings out the personality of Benton MacKaye, who in middle age abandoned government service as a forester. I quote from this introduction: "... he wasted almost no time on earning a living but, by tightening his belt and accepting what the ravens brought him, he concentrated on the main business of life, namely living; and this, in middle life, was for him more and more centered on fresh ideas improving the habitability of the country he dearly loved."

— Robert Rausch

Benton and Hazel MacKaye
Gould Farm, November 1930

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

GOODBYE, BROOKBEND! *AU REVOIR*, MONTEREY ...

On May 11, Bob Ensign and I will reluctantly move from Monterey to South Egremont, where we have bought a house. Moving is always a pain in the neck, but this time an extra pain is added—in the heart. The real wrench comes not so much from leaving Brookbend but from leaving town. We simply could not find a suitable house in Monterey.

Bob has long tap roots in Monterey, reaching back to 1914, when his parents, Raymond and Caroline Ensign, brought him, a baby of five months, up to a house they had bought, the old "Manse," deep in the woods at the end of what was shortly to become Art School road. Nineteen fifteen was the first year of the Berkshire Summer School of Art, founded by Bob's father when he was Director of Design at the Pratt Institute in Brooklyn, New York. As soon as Bob was old enough, he became an active part of the BSSA work crew every summer, along with his brothers, Dean and Powell. For many years the Art School (and Monterey) were Bob's spiritual home.

His associations with Brookbend began in 1920, when his father purchased Brookbend to provide quarters for the overflow at the Art School, a success from the start. During the '30s, when Bob was a budding industrial designer in New York City, he spent many a frosty weekend at Brookbend in order to ski at G Bar S Ranch, now Butternut Basin.

Brookbend is a historic place and one of the earliest houses in Monterey. Sad though he is to be leaving such a gracious dwelling, Bob feels he is leaving Monterey a somewhat better place than it was when he returned to it in 1974, after his retirement from the illustrious design firm of Walter Dorwin Teague Associates, of which he was one of the principals for many years. He and his wife, Jill, rescued this venerable building from a state of almost total decay and converted a town eyesore into a dignified apartment house, an asset to the town.

As for me, I was rescued by Monterey and by Gould Farm, where I came to work in 1975, following the sudden death of my husband, Jack Toohey, to whom I had been married for 34 years. Bob lost his wife in 1977, and when he and I were married in 1980, I moved from Gould Farm to Brookbend. I have loved this wonderful hilltown, still something of an anachronism but fast losing its sturdy rural character. In spite of encroaching development, I shall miss Monterey, too, and I join fervently with Bob in his wish to return here to live, as soon as we can find a house we like at a sensible price. We looked long before defecting to South Egremont but were appalled by available possibilities. We hope our friends will keep us in mind. We don't like pretentiousness, or to be buried in the woods, or to renovate another wreck. If you hear of a place you think might appeal to us, call us at 528-4296, for we are transferring our current number to the South Egremont house.

Again, *au revoir*,

Ginna Toohey Ensign

To the Editor:

An article will appear on the Monterey Town Meeting warrant concerning the exclusion of real estate agents from holding public office because of possible conflict of interest. Another article would prohibit real estate agents from conducting business in Monterey if they are on a Town board that deals with real estate; i.e., planning board, assessors.

Neither article should be taken lightly. No suggestion of discrimination should ever be taken lightly. And make no mistake—this is discrimination. It is not an "interesting notion" as stated in the *Berkshire Eagle* In Brief editorial (February 6, 1987). There is nothing "interesting" about discrimination that begins innocuously with a prohibition here and a restriction there. Remember Nazi Germany? Let any conflict of interest, should it arise, be dealt with case by case. To allow the exclusion of a specific group for any reason is unconscionable and cannot be endorsed.

Sincerely yours,

Deborah D. Mielke

To the Editor:

In all the howl in Congress and the media over political, economic and military turmoil in Central America, I believe the actual experience of being human and alive (precariously) is forgotten. The U. S. government approves the Duarte government and maligns the leftist Salvadoran rebels. Next door, the U. S. government maligns the leftist Sandinistas and with admittedly increasing difficulty embraces the rebels called "freedom fighters." Fact is, power politics cares nothing for little girls who lose their legs from setting off land mines, or the families who live in terror of ambush, death squads. So trapped in political intrigue are we that human life is trivialized.

The Fellowship of Reconciliation (FOR) is composed of women and men who recognize the essential unity of all humanity and have joined together to explore the power of love and truth for resolving human conflict. FOR publishes a magazine, *Fellowship*, which brings out the human dimension of conflict: actual consequences of political action on real human beings. The April/May 1987 issue of *Fellowship* gives a moving look at what is going on in Nicaragua and El Salvador from the standpoint of ordinary people who feel the effects of the war. Not until the importance of being human influences the bloodless stratagems of policy makers will humanity resolve its conflicts in other than a flood of blood. A subscription of eight issues per year for $12 may be obtained from Fellowship of Reconciliation, 523 No. Broadway, Nyack, NY 10960. Let's get the word out that can bring peace, simply and truly.

— Robert Palin

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MORE LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

To the Editor:

To treat disease successfully requires removal of the cause, not treating the result. It has become incumbent upon us "old-timers," who have lived in Monterey for over 50 years, and who have also served as elected officials to speak up against the medications being applied to treat the ailments of Monterey.

We can't solve our problems, and we have many, through passing exorbitant overrides. We can't neglect our basic roads while overbuilding country lanes, as they did on Mt. Hunger, spending within the vicinity of $55,000. We are overlooking safety standards and overlooking qualifications for our elected officials. And our most flagrant violation over the years has been disenfranchising those citizens responsible, at a minimum, for carrying 60% of our taxes.

When I left the Assessor's office in 1978 we had a substantial balance in the savings account and were practically free of debt. Now the savings are gone, and we have mortgages and interest to pay. That has happened in spite of a tremendous growth in building within the last five years. The increase in real estate income should have more than covered any additional expenses. Instead, last year officialdom asked for an override of $165,000.00 to meet their debts. And if my information is correct, they expect a repeat performance this year.

Bridge structures are deteriorating, and we spent $55,000 for repairing part of a country road. I have learned they are exchanging $1 bills for parcels of land on that road. Insurance companies are re-examining their coverage for liabilities because of discrepancies in what is said and what is done. It appears state laws on bidding are being overlooked or disregarded.

In my first weeks as an assessor we had occasion to look at a house off on one of the country roads. As we stopped and approached the house, a young mother in her late twenties or early thirties rushed out of the house with a loaded rifle and demanded we leave the property. She was flushed and very agitated. As a man of medical background, I was severely distressed, not so much because of the interference to my work, as to find a young person so overwhelmed with a hatred of public officials. I remained standing and then approached her slowly and carefully, explaining to her my position and background and that we were trying to give her a square deal, which we did, emphasizing to her that we were available at all times to listen to her and help her—to treat her as every American deserves to be treated.

Sorry to say, since that time and especially of late, election to office seems to be taken as a privilege to act with arrogance, to assume unassigned powers and to disregard the basic laws of decency and "living within the law." Recently I ran across an article in the *Monterey News* relating to that very nice lady Edith Wilson. In discussing her relationships and occurrences in Monterey, she spoke of her sadness in walking from her home to the post office and not meeting anyone she knew as in years past. "Edith, the road has not changed, and most of the old folks are still there, but somewhere in our psyche perhaps we think and see things we don't like and therefore we don't see them."

It is time we lived within our means and worried about each other. The laws of nature work in mysterious ways, and if we are to survive as a people and a nation we will have to start on a local level to bring back the qualities and virtues we possess. Let us get rid of greed, arrogance, lust for power and money, so that we can look at ourselves in the mirror and not be ashamed of what we see.

Thank you,

Dr. Benjamin Zackim

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MONTEREY GRANGE NEWS

Monterey Grange #291 observed Booster Night on March 18, 1987. Pomona Deputy Thomas Colthard from Holyoke was guest speaker and presented a 60-year membership seal to A. Wallace Tryon. Guests were present from Worthington, Flintstone, Hinsdale, Great Barrington, Stockbridge, Umpachene, West Stockbridge, and Southamptom, and there were three non-members present, including District Deputy Alicia Brazie and Subordinate Deputy Peter Martin. A variety program and a buffet were enjoyed. The Grange was invited to Westfield Grange for April 22. District Deputy Alicia Brazie presented a plaque to Membership Chairman Sister Eleanor Kimberley, who won the posture contest.

The Grange met April 1 for a Conservation Program and voted to join the National Community Service Contest. The foodless food sale was a success, and the Grange wants to thank all who donated to it. April 15 will be the next meeting, when first and second degrees will be conferred and a Subordinate Deputy of Pittsfield will make his official visitation. Plans are under way for a food sale.

— Mary Wallace
Lecturer

PARK COMMISSION

With the mud season upon us, spring and baseball follow closely behind. We'd like to hear from volunteers to help work on getting the ballfield in shape—especially fathers of our young baseball enthusiasts. Please call Leroy Thorpe, Dek Tillett, Fran Amidon or Steve Small.

— Fran Amidon

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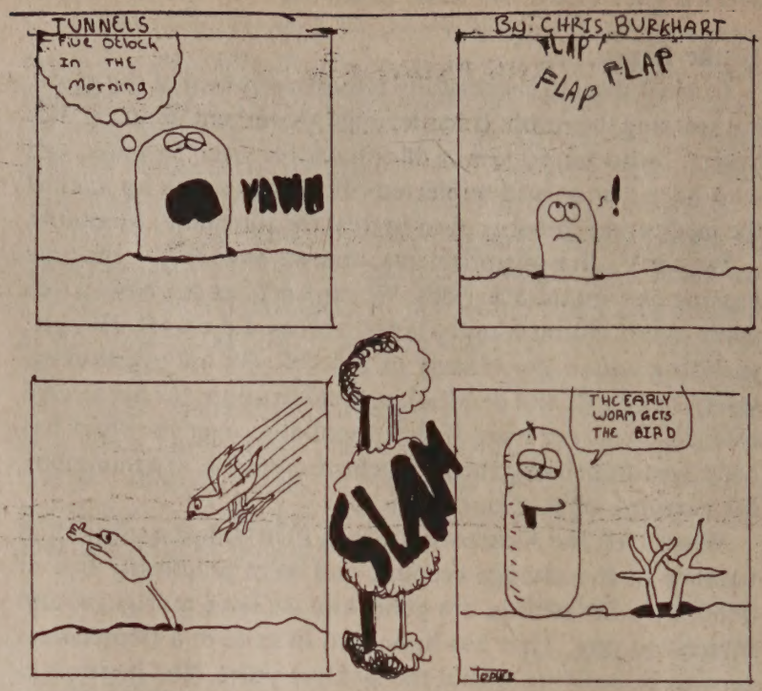

FLOOD DAMAGE ALERT

Anyone whose property sustained damage during recent floods and who intends to repair it must file an application for certification of emergency repairs with the Monterey Conservation Commission.

VOLKSWAGEN CAMPER FOR SALE

1976 Volkswagen Westfalia camper; immaculate condition; second owner. Pop-up top, refrigerator, two-burner stove, sink, table, sleeps five. $4,500. Call Don Clawson, 528-4835.

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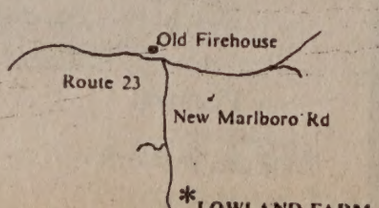

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Next to lung cancer, breast cancer is the greatest cause of fatalities by that terrifying family of diseases. A mammogram, a breast X-ray, can detect incipient cancer years before there is any symptom discernible by other means. At such early stages, treatment is relatively simple and usually successful.

The American Cancer Society recommends that women have one mammogram between the ages of 33 and 39, one every one or two years, depending on risk, between 40 and 50, and annual mammograms after 50. The Society also recommends monthly self-examination for all women.

In its annual fund-raising effort from April 21 to 28, the ACS will send out volunteers with information for their neighbors in the South Berkshires. A large-scale program of low cost mammograms is scheduled from May 11 to 22 in local hospitals. For more information, or to volunteer to work on the project, call the Pittsfield office of the ACS at 448-8674.

NOTES FROM THE MONTEREY POST OFFICE

On April 21, 1987, the new Special Occasions Stamp Booklet will be available. It contains ten 22¢ stamps and sells for $2.20.

For fast next-day service use Express Mail. Up to two pounds is only $10.75 and is available to most locations.

Please use your correct P. O. box number on all your correspondence.

— Walter Parks
Postmaster

SANITARY DISPOSAL AREA HOURS

The summer hours for the Monterey Sanitary Disposal Area began Sunday, April 5, 1987, as follows:

SUNDAY:	10:00 a.m. to	6:00 p.m.
WEDNESDAY:	7:00 a.m. to	12:00 noon (unchanged)
SATURDAY:	8:00 a.m. to	1:00 p.m. (unchanged)

Stickers for authorized users' automobiles may be obtained from the Town Clerk or the Town Office Secretary.

— MONTEREY BOARD OF SELECTMEN

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sunday, April 26—Workshop in Music for Children for parents and teachers, at Folkcraft Studios in Winsted, 7:00 p.m. Conducted by Dallas Cline: call (203) 379-9857 at Folkcraft, or Dallas Cline at (413) 229-7973 for further information.

Wednesday, April 29—Community Supper in the Church Social Room at 6:30 p.m. Potluck supper and sociable time with your neighbors; a different entertainment every time.

Saturday, May 2—Monterey's Annual Town Meeting, 10:00 a.m. at the Firehouse.

Saturday, May 2—Tag Sale and Bake Sale at the New Marlborough Central School, Mill River, MA, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. The fourth grade class is raising money for transportation to Old Sturbridge Village.

Monday, May 4—Conservation Commission meeting, at 7:00 p.m. Note: This is instead of the meeting previously scheduled for May 11.

Saturday, May 9—Square and Contra Dance, New England-style, at the Sheffield Grange, Route 7, Sheffield, MA. 8:30-11:30 p.m. Beginners and children welcome. All dances taught by Joe Baker, music by Mountain Laurel. Refreshments served. Adults, $3.50; children, $1.00 to dance until intermission. Information: 413-528-9385 or 518-329-7578.

Saturday, May 23—Square and Contra Dance, see above for details. This second dance of the month is for people who have done it before.

Monday, May 25—Monterey Memorial Day Parade. 11:00 a.m. on Main Road.

Wednesday, May 27—Community Supper in the Church Social Room at 6:30 p.m. Potluck supper. Bring something for your neighbors and see what they have brought for you. Entertainment to be revealed later.

Monday, May 25—Monterey Memorial Day Parade. 12:00 noon on Main Road.

Monday, May 25—Monterey Memorial Day Parade. 1:00 p.m. on Main Road.

Monday, May 25—Monterey Memorial Day Parade. 2:00 p.m. on Main Road.

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YOUTH NEWS

Monterey's Girl Scout Troop will be joining many other troops from all over Massachusetts on Saturday, April 25, in a tour of the Boston Museum of Science. After the Museum has closed to the public, the Girl Scouts will be able to choose an exhibit area where they would like to spend the night. Joining this huge sleepover from Monterey at the Museum are Ann Gile, Meghan Sadlowski, Erin Sadlowski, and Rachel Rodgers.

Mount Everett's softball and baseball seasons have begun, and there are Monterey students included in the lineup. Brooke Loder, Gaby Sherb and Natasha Grotz are this year's Monterey members. The girls have won their first game over Lenox High School, and the boys' first game was on April 21.

There is a new Band Director at Mount Everett taking the place of Myron Wartella. David Reed has formed a new group which is known as the Jazz/Rock Ensemble. The Monterey members currently involved in this group are Anne Marie Makuc and Shelby Loder. Also, Marta Makuc (although she is only in sixth grade) has joined the High School Band due to her excellence and participation.

There will be a Spring Concert at Mount Everett on May 15 at 8 o'clock. All Band groups and Choral groups will perform from third grade through twelfth. Band members from Monterey are Michelle Grotz, Natasha Grotz, Shelby Loder, Brooke Loder, Jenny Brown, Kip Makuc, Anne Marie Makuc, Marta Makuc and John Pizzichemi. Chorus members include Jenny Brown, Jordan Loder, Ann Gile, Alana Yost, Donna Trudeau, Dominic Stucker, Jason Tanner, Michelle Grotz and Jeneen Bohn.

— Shelby Loder

AD RATES

One-inch classified ads (1" x 3 5/8")...$2.50

Two-inch business cards (2" x 3 5/8")...5.00

Three-inch size (3" x 3 5/8")...7.50

Four-inch size (4" x 3 5/8")...10.00

Back cover ads are double the above prices. No classifieds on the back cover. Copy should reach the editor by the 20th of the month before publication. In general, we cannot run letters more than one column in length.

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